

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9752

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USCINCEUR

DA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2075

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BEXP, NO, NATO FR

SUBJ: SNAG IN NORWEGIAN ACQUISITION OF ROLAND II

REFS: (A) OSLO 2026 (B) STATE 116340 (C) 1979

1. IN CHMAAG MEETING WITH MR. DELPESCH THIS MORNING AT THE NORWEGIAN MOD TO PUT HIM IN COMMUNICATIONS WITH DR. DURRIE, DDR&3, MR. DELPEXCH SPOKE OF HIS CONCERN THAT THE DESIRE OF NORWAY TO BUY THE ROLAND II FROM THE U.S. NOT BE CLOUDED WITH THE ISSUE OF THE OFFER OF CROTALE BY THE FRENCH. HE STATED FRANCE DID NOT PREFER ONE SYSTEM OVER THE OTHER. MR. DELPESCH INDICATED THAT THE WISHED TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT OF NORWAY OVER THE LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIRD COUNTRY SALES BY THE U.S. HE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO TALK TO DR. CURRIE ON THIS MATTER AND, NOT KNOWING DR. CURRIE'S SCHEDULE, GAVE HIS OWN ITINERARY FOR TODAY WHICH WAS PASSED TO MR. ROBERT BASIL BY TELEPHONE.

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2. IN REMARKS ABOUT SALES TO THIRD COUNTRIES ON THE ROLAND, MR. DELPESCH INDICATED A MEETING SHOULD BE HELD WITH APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATION FROM FRANCE, THE FRG AND THE U.S. TO DISCUSS AND RESOLVE THIS MATTER, NOT ONLY WITH RELATION TO NORWAY BUT OTHER THIRD COUNTRY SALES. HE SAID THE QUESTION OF "FREE MILITARY AID" SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THIS CONTEXT. IN THE LATTER CONNECTION HE REFERRED TO ISRAEL AS AN EXAMPLE OF A COUNTRY WHICH MIGHT BE A CANDIDATE FOR SUCH AID.

3. MR. DELPESCH ENVISIONED THE SALE OF THE TOLAND II TO NORWAY AS NOT EXCLUDING DELIVERY OF THE MISSILE FROM EITHER FRANCE OR THE FRG WITH U.S. PECULIAR ELEMENTS ADDED IN NORWAY. HE DID NOT ADDRESS LOGISTIC SUPPORT NOR RELATED TRAINING AND TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS.

4. MR. DELPESCH EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST IN REDUCING WEAPONS' COSTS BY STANDARDIZATION, FRIENDSHIP WITH THE U.S. AND A WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN ACHIEVING A STRONG DEFENSE.

5. DEPARTING OSLO AT 1500Z TODAY, MR. DELPESCH WILL BE STAYING AT THE D' ANGLETERRE HOTEL IN COPENHAGEN. HE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE HOTEL BETWEEN 1700Z AND 1845Z. HE IS HAVING DINNER AT THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN COPENHAGEN AND IS REMAINING IN COPENHAGEN TOMORROW.

6. FOSTERVOLL ADVISED ME NORWEGIAN POSITION IS THAT CROTAL IS DEAD ISSUE IN NORWAY (SEE PARA 3, REF C) AND THAT ROLAND II, IN ORDER TO BE APPROVED IN SPRING SESSION OF PARLIAMENT, CAN ONLY BE CONSIDERED AS AUTHORIZED SALE TO NORWAY FROM U.S. ANY OTHER SALE OPTION WOULD MOST PROBABLY REQUIRE DEFERRING ISSUE TO FALL SESSION. FOSTERVOLL ALSO STRESSED THAT ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR NORWEGIAN NAVY WILL BE FACTOR IN FUTURE DELIBERATIONS ON MILITARY EXPENSES INCREASING DESIRABILITY OF DISAPOSING OF BOTH AIRCRAFT AND SHORAD ISSUES DURING PRESENT SPRING SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

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